

outreach

Federal and state agencies, educational institutions, and non-governmental organizations provide information about the Channel Islands MPAs to the public and learn about how people are interacting with the MPAs. Outreach goals are to increase public awareness of the MPAs, enhance compliance with MPA regulations, and cultivate a sense of ownership and responsibility.

Initially, outreach efforts focused on boaters and users directly affected by MPAs. State and federal agencies, working with input from users, developed and distributed a brochure (right) with maps, regulations, and other information about the MPAs. Interpretive signs about the MPAs are posted around the Channel Islands National Park Visitors Center and will be posted at coastal boat launches, popular coves at the islands, and park concessionaires. Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and National Park host a public lecture series and train volunteers to share information about the islands with local people, tourists, school children, and businesses. Websites and public computer kiosks offer activities for teachers and students, and they link to research about MPAs. To download educational materials, go to <http://channelislands.noaa.gov> and www.nps.gov/chis.

A brochure called *Protecting Your Channel Islands* provides close-up views and geographic coordinates of MPA boundaries. Since 2003, 40,000 brochures have been distributed to boaters and tackle shops, divers and dive shops, and at public events and teacher workshops. In 2004, thousands of boaters in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties also received fliers with tips about boating safety and MPA rules and regulations.
Photo: John D. Brooks



Detailed maps are at www.dfg.ca.gov/marine.

Volunteers at the Heart of Outreach



The Channel Islands Naturalist Corps are trained volunteers dedicated to educating passengers on vessels and island hikes. They reach nearly half a million people annually at outreach events in southern California and interact with local residents, tourists, and school children to provide information about the Channel Islands.



Through its "Adopt-a-Business" Program, Channel Islands Naturalist Corps volunteers distribute information about the MPA network to over 80 marine-related businesses every month.

Photos: CINMS/NOAA, Tina Reed/NOAA, © Carl Gwinn



Each year, volunteer divers from REEF (Reef Environmental Education Foundation) join sanctuary staff to count fish and invertebrates inside and outside MPAs. Since 1996, divers have logged more than 1,700 surveys. For results, see page 5 and visit www.reef.org.

enforcing MPAs cooperatively

Compliance with regulations is essential for protecting biodiversity and habitats in the Channel Islands MPAs and providing long-term social and economic benefits. Community support is built through education, sharing monitoring results, and effective enforcement, which in turn enhances compliance with MPA regulations. One aim of MPA education is to increase public awareness of the MPA boundaries and rules. Since 2003, enforcement officers report a relatively high level of compliance, although some people break the rules because they are unaware of the MPAs or their boundaries and regulations. A small percentage of the users knowingly violated MPA regulations.

Number of Patrol Days, Contacts, Warnings, and Citations at the Channel Islands MPAs

	Agency	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Enforcement presence	NPS Vessel	99 days	108 days	151 days	170 days	150 days
	NPS Island-based		817 days	1,129 days	996 days	820 days
	NPS Aerial		37 days	38 days	66 days	62 days
	Coast Guard Aerial		10 hours	150 hours	125 hours	110 hours
	DFG Vessel	113 days*	38 days	48 days	37 days	0 days**
	DFG Aerial	8 days	12 days	7 days	2 days	8 days
	CINMS Aerial	81 hours	59 hours	123 hours	67 hours	14 hours
No. of citations (individuals)	NPS	3	9	23	14	28
	DFG	5*	22	46	14	0**
No. of written warnings (individuals)	NPS		46	65	22	27
	DFG		24	52	21	0**
No. of verbal warnings (individuals)	NPS	~400	100	100	50	50
No. of contacts (boats)	NPS	550	4,100	~2,000	~2,400	~2,000
	DFG		238	386	162	0**
No. of contacts (individuals)	NPS	1,645	8,900	~7,000	~7,100	~7,000
	DFG	3,775*	623	1,177	588	0**

NPS is National Park Service; DFG is Department of Fish and Game; CINMS is Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

*Additional DFG vessels and staff on patrol.

**Primary DFG vessel inoperable.



California Department of Fish and Game wardens conduct joint training with U.S. Coast Guard. Photo: John Ugoretz/DFG

By Sea and Air

In 2003, the State of California invested heavily in boats and personnel to patrol waters around the Channel Islands. State wardens primarily focus on regulating commercial fishermen and charter boat activities. In the last 3 years, the number of state patrols has decreased due to a reduction in staff and increased costs of vessel maintenance.

At the same time, National Park Service rangers have patrolled the MPAs by land, air, and sea. Park rangers are responsible for a majority of the contacts with recreational users to disseminate information and have issued dozens of warnings and violations each year.

In recent years, the U.S. Coast Guard has conducted patrols of the Channel Islands MPAs using helicopters and their 87-foot cutter vessels. U.S. Coast Guard personnel work closely with National Park Service rangers to combine patrol efforts in the air and by sea.